

**Regular Council Meeting
July 25, 2013**

I. Meeting Called to Order

Councilman Jackson called to order the regularly scheduled council meeting of July 25, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Council members Elizabeth Brannon, Ray Jackson, and Harold Taunton. Staff present: City Attorney Clayton Adkinson, Parks Director Shane Supple, Fire Chief Chad Harrell, Fire Captain Thomas Palmer, City Planner Latilda Hughes, Water Operator Ben Lewis and City Clerk Robin Haynes. Anna Hudson was present representing Preble-Rish.

II. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

*****Robin Haynes swore Mr. Sidney Russell “Russ” Barley into office. Mayor Barley then swore in council members Elizabeth Brannon, Jennifer Laird and Janice McLean.***

III. Approval of past minutes

No minutes were presented.

1. Planning Report

Latilda Hughes gave a brief report of activities that she has been working on, correspondence received regarding the damaged retention pond at Cross Creek Estates, and reminders about the workshop scheduled for July 30 and planning board appointments.

2. Legal Matters

No legal matters were discussed.

3. Fire Department Report

Chad Harrell gave a brief report on calls received, training hours accomplished and maintenance of fire hydrants.

4. Parks Department Report

No parks report was given.

5. Engineering report

Anna Hudson gave an update report on the water and sewer models.

IV. Old Business

1. 2013 TRIM compliance

A. Request 1st public hearing

Councilman Taunton motioned to set the 1st public hearing for the 2013/14 tentative millage rate and budget on September 5, 2013 at 7:00 pm, Councilwoman Brannon seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

B. Proposed millage rate for DR420

Councilman Jackson motioned to set the 2013/14 tentative millage rate to the roll back rate of 4.8632, Councilman Taunton seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

2. Request budget workshop

Councilman Taunton motioned to the first budget workshop for Monday, August 12, 2013 at 7:00 pm, Councilman Jackson seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

V. New Business

1. Appointment of council president

Councilwoman Elizabeth Brannon motioned to approve the appointment of Janice McLean as Council President, Councilwoman Laird seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

2. Probationary period complete/Chad Harrell

Councilwoman McLean motioned to approve placing Chad Harrell on permanent employee status with the successful completion of his probationary period, Councilwoman Brannon seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

3. Town Historian letter of resignation

Mayor Barley read a letter of resignation by Mrs. Becki Buxton as Town Historian. He stated that while Mrs. Buxton felt she should resign, as she was appointed by a previous board, she was willing to continue with assistance. Mayor Barley re-appointed Mrs. Buxton as Town Historian and then requested volunteers to assist her from the audience. Terry Raffield and Latilda Hughes offered to help Mrs. Buxton.

4. Northwest Florida League of Cities update

Councilwoman Brannon updated the council on past and future events being sponsored by the Northwest Florida League of Cities. She also requested all council members complete the short legislative surveys and return them to Robin Haynes to process.

VI. Council Business Not On Agenda

Mayor Barley mentioned two items that he would like for council to consider and be prepared to discuss at the next council meeting:

- He would like to coordinate a festival; and
- He would like to convert the Old Post office from a meeting facility to a local museum.

Mayor Barley then appointed council members as head of the departments:

- Ray Jackson – wastewater department
- Janice McLean – fire department
- Jennifer Laird – water department
- Harold Taunton – parks and recreation
- Elizabeth Brannon – legislative delegate

Councilman Jackson congratulated all the new board members.

VII. Public Comment

Eleanore Turner reminded the board and audience of the birthday reception being held Wednesday, July 31, 2013 from 5:00 – 7:00 pm at the Freeport City Hall in celebration of the City of Freeport's 50th year of incorporation.

Mayor Barley invited all in attendance to a reception to celebrate the new board members across the street, immediately following the council meeting.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Robin Haynes, City Clerk

Russ Barley, Mayor

Janice McLean, Council President